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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Brazil, Costa Rica and Mexico: draft resolution

Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", containing the Sustainable Development Goals, in which Member States resolved to protect human rights and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/182, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly called upon Member States to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes related to the world drug problem,

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 52/1, entitled "Promoting international cooperation in addressing the involvement of women and girls in drug trafficking, especially as couriers", as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission that underscore the need to take gender into account when developing and implementing drug-related policies and programmes,

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Recalling further its resolution 58/5, entitled "Supporting the collaboration of public health and justice authorities in pursuing alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature",

Taking note of the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] held in 1995 and the associated Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: A Commitment to Action, held in September 2015 in conjunction with the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, as well as the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women,

Recalling the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in which Member States acknowledged the important contribution made by women in curbing the world drug problem, committed themselves to ensuring that drug control policies, measures and interventions take into account the specific needs and circumstances that women face with regard to drug problems, and decided to undertake effective measures to ensure that women, as well as men, have access to, and benefit equally and without discrimination from, drug control policies and strategies by involving them actively in all stages of programme and policy development and implementation,

Gravely concerned about the social and structural barriers that continue to hinder the access of women to treatment for drug use, and fully aware that women are acutely affected by particular consequences of drug abuse, such as sexually transmitted diseases and the consequences of domestic violence, in addition to being more likely to be affected by drug-facilitated crime,

Bearing in mind the great contribution of women to the welfare of the family and to the development of society, as well as the role of many women as heads of household and as sole or primary caretakers for children and others such as senior citizens and persons with disabilities,

Welcoming the contributions of organs, entities and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, and taking note with appreciation of the submissions by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on how the world drug problem and the drug control regime intersect with gender equality and women's empowerment and on gender sensitive-responses to avoid discrimination against women,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to develop, as needed, and implement drug policies and programmes that take into account the specific needs of women, in particular of women who are the sole or primary caretakers of minors and others, and to exchange information and best practices in this regard;

2. *Urges* Member States to collect and share sex-disaggregated quantitative and qualitative data related to the world drug problem, including when complying with

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

reporting obligations under the three international drug control conventions, and to mainstream a gender perspective in their related research and analysis, with a view to addressing the knowledge gap on women and drug use;

3. *Invites* Member States to take into consideration the specific needs and realities of women as prisoners when developing relevant legislation, procedures, policies and action plans, and to draw, as appropriate, on the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules);[2]

4. *Emphasizes* that, when sentencing or deciding on pretrial measures for a pregnant woman or a woman who is a child's sole or primary caretaker, non-custodial measures should be preferred where possible and appropriate, with custodial sentences being considered when the offence is serious or violent;

5. *Invites* Member States, through collaboration between the health and justice authorities, to take into account the specific needs and realities of women when using a wide range of alternative measures to conviction or punishment for appropriate drug-related offences of a minor nature, in order to improve public health and safety for individuals, families and societies;

6. *Underscores* the importance of gender as a central factor in the provision of scientific evidence-based substance use disorder treatment and care services that take into account a public health perspective and of ensuring that such services are accessible to all, as well as of ensuring the provision of services particularly targeting women, including in prison settings;

7. *Emphasizes* the important role that civil society plays, in particular non-governmental organizations, in addressing the world drug problem, notes with appreciation their important contributions, and also notes that representatives of affected populations and civil society entities, where appropriate, should be enabled to play a participatory role in the formulation and implementation of drug-related policies, including the mainstreaming of a gender perspective;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN-Women and other relevant agencies comprising the United Nations system task force on transnational organized crime and drug trafficking as threats to security and stability to continue to support Member States in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their policies and programmes related to the world drug problem;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to actively and visibly mainstream a gender perspective in all its practices, policies and programmes by aligning those efforts with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] that address gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

10. *Reaffirms* its encouragement to the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to intensify the efforts of the Office to achieve the goal of a 50/50 gender balance within the Professional and higher categories, including for field representatives, while upholding article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, by, inter alia, intensifying outreach efforts.

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[2] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.